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the Ulster-Scot

SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2025

Ulster-Scots Leid Week Is Here!



◆ With exciting Leid Week events taking place all over the country, join us in celebrating and promoting our wonderful Ulster-Scots language!
Find our extensive 5-page guide to Leid Week 2025 on pages 3-7



◆ The Belfast Tartan Day Dander is back for 2025



◆ Ulster-Scots culinary icon, Paula McIntyre, provides us with some delicious 'Hamely Winter Warmers' recipes



◆ Killylea and Lisbellaw Primary Schools receive their Ulster-Scots Agency Flagship Awards

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Promoting the language, heritage & culture of Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland, the island of Ireland, and the wider Ulster-Scots diaspora.

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New Ulster-Scots programmes airing for Leid Week

NVTV teams up with That's TV, Dublin and Cork Community TV to showcase Ulster-Scots culture

A major new season of programming celebrating Ulster-Scots language, music, and culture will air from Monday to Sunday, November 24-30, as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week (Language Week).

Funded by Northern Ireland Screen's Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund, the programming will be broadcast on That's TV (Freeview Channel 7 / Virgin 159) in Northern Ireland, and for the first time on Dublin Community Television (DCTV/Virgin 802) and Cork Community Television (CCTV/Virgin 803), extending the reach of Ulster-Scots stories to two million households across the island of Ireland. All times can be found in local listings.

All programming will also be available to stream on NVTV's Ulster-Scots website at ulsterscots.nvtv.co.uk/ which includes over 250 programmes celebrating the rich Ulster-Scots cultural traditions of heritage, language, music and storytelling.

The new season of programmes marks the continuing partnership between NVTV and That's TV who are committed to sharing authentic local stories and celebrating the cultural diversity of our communities. Through their partnership, now joined by Dublin Community Television and Cork Community Television, Ulster-Scots language and creativity will be showcased to an all-Ireland audience, connecting communities across regions and traditions.

The support of the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund has enabled the creation of new content that celebrates the shared cultural bonds between Ulster, Scotland and America. At the heart of the schedule is the flagship documentary *The Man Who Fell into Muttonburn Stream*, premiering on Sunday, November 30, following a screening at Larne Museum & Arts Centre on Friday (28th) at 2pm as part of Leid Week.

The premiere will include a post-screening discussion



with the producer Dean Hagan and presenter David Hume, giving attendees a unique insight into the making of the film and the enduring influence of William Hume's Ulster-Scots voice.

"Our ongoing partnership with That's TV, now joined by Dublin and Cork Community Television, gives Ulster-Scots culture a new and exciting platform," said Dean Hagan from NVTV.

"With support from the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund, we're proud to share six hours of new programmes that bring language, landscape and heritage together with *The Man Who Fell into Muttonburn Stream* as a moving and memorable highlight."

Ulster-Scots Word of the Issue

Greet
Cry
"Dinnae be greetin."



Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 – Exciting daeins aa ower tha kintra!

Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 has arrived, and with it, an exciting opportunity for people all over the country to engage with the Ulster-Scots language through a wide variety of workshops, children's events, poetry readings, short films and much more.

On Pages 4-7, you will find a full listing of all the events taking place from November 24 - 29, including details explaining what each event is about; the venue and time; and how to book your tickets (if booking is required).

As these events unfold over the coming days, we know that young and old alike will enjoy learning new words and phrases (as well as revisiting some old favourites); grow in their knowledge and understanding of the language; feel increasingly confident in their use of Ulster-Scots; and delight in the community and kinship that comes from uniting with other kindred spirits who share a similar interest and enthusiasm.

This can only be a good thing for the Ulster-Scots language, and indeed for the wider expression and celebration of Ulster-Scots culture, history and heritage.

Many of the events have free admission, which will undoubtedly help to encourage a good turnout, so make sure to get tickets booked for any events you would like to attend. You don't want to miss out on this fantastic opportunity, and please mention the events of others as well, so that as many people as possible are able to enjoy all that's on offer.

Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 is a time to come together, learn together and grow together, as we amplify the voice of the wonderful language which surrounds us every day, bringing it to the masses for everyone to appreciate and enjoy.



Pupils from Glenwood Primary School enjoyed learning about the Ulster-Scots Leid during a visit to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast

A Brave Wheen o Yarns an Nae a Gansy in Sicht

This year sees us launching edition number five of the 'Yarns' journal of contemporary Ulster-Scots and Scots writing. What started out as a one-off initiative – funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency – has over the last five years taken on a life of its own, and it's hoped, become an important outlet for the Ulster-Scots creative community.

Writing in Scots and Ulster-Scots has a long tradition in Ulster. We can go back to the 18th and 19th Centuries with the work of William Starratt, James Orr, the bards Samuel Thomson, David Herbison and James Campbell, or even into the early 20th century with the work of Thomas Given for the historical connection. More recently, as part of the Ulster-Scots revival in the 1980s and 1990s, we had work from the Twa Charlies – Charlie Gillen and the late Charlie "Tha Poocher" Reynolds – as well as the hugely influential work of the late James Fenton, all of which showed us that the language was alive and well and still producing new work with relevance to an engaged community.

'Yarns' was designed to help people come forward and get their work out into the world, showing that there is a still a thriving creative element within the Ulster-Scots community. In the absence of many outlets for those writing in Ulster-Scots to publish their work, the thought was that we could provide a space for newer writers, or those who hadn't traditionally been engaged. We also wanted

to highlight the connections across the North Channel to Scotland and to encourage writers in Scots to engage with their creative cousins this side of the shough.

Over the last five years we've published over 170 pieces of new Ulster-Scots writing by over 50 contributors – many of whom were being published for the first time. The connections have been strengthened, too, with many of the writers connecting away from the journal and working in collaboration with each other on new and exciting projects, and it's been encouraging to watch many of those writers' names appear in the lists of competition winners across the years.

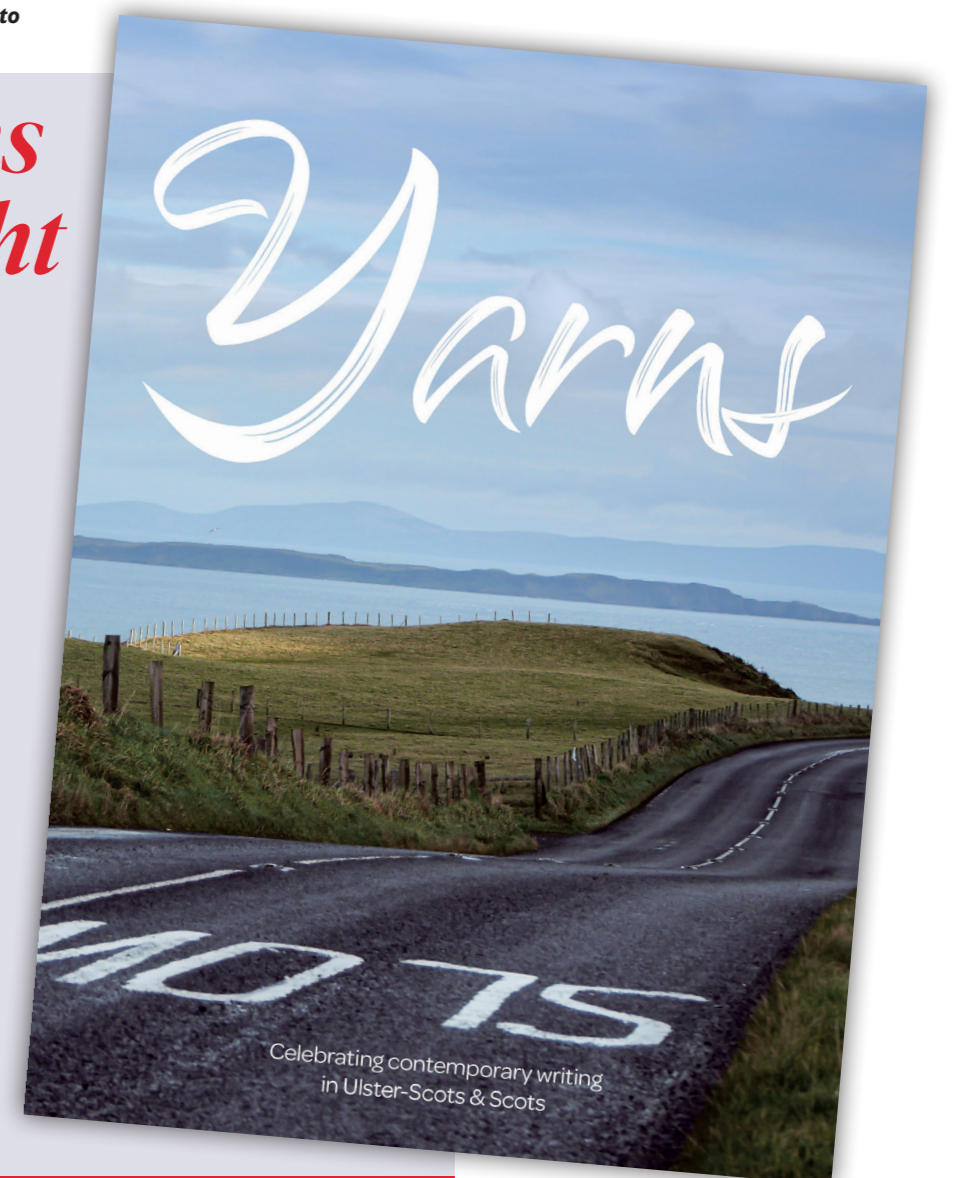
Much of this wouldn't have happened if 'Yarns' wasn't there and it's a fervent hope that we can continue to offer those who want it an outlet for their writing. We want to continue to encourage people to explore their creative writing and to continue to weave their names into the fabric of Ulster-Scots writing.

Launch of 'Yarns' Poetry Book (Fifth Edition) by the Ulster Scots Agency

Venue: Ballyclare Town Hall
Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Join us for the official launch of the fifth edition of 'Yarns', a vibrant new poetry collection published by the Ulster-Scots Agency as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025.

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space



Contact the Ulster-Scots Agency:

Belfast (Main office)
The Ulster-Scots Agency
The Corn Exchange
31 Gordon Street
Belfast
BT1 2LG

Tel: (028) 9023 1113
Email: info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

Raphoe (Regional office)
The Ulster-Scots Agency
William Street
Raphoe
Co Donegal

Telephone: +353 7 4917 3876
Email: freena@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

Or find us on social media:
Facebook – @UlsterScotsAgency
Instagram – @discoverulsterscots
X (formerly Twitter) – @UlsterScotsAgen

www.ulsterscotsagency.com



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Join almost 23,000 people and follow our Facebook Page to keep up to date with the latest Ulster-Scots:

- News
- Events
- 'Word of the Day'
- Tuition funding streams
- ...and much more!



Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025 Events

Sunday, November 23

'Leid and Lairn' Walking Tours: The Story of the Ulster-Scots in Ards

Venue: Ards Arts Centre, then walking to The Priory, Market Cross and the old Town Hall in Ards
Times: 11am-12pm and 2pm-3pm
Booking Required: Tickets are £5 and can be booked at: <https://andculture.org.uk/whats-on/leid-and-lairn-story-ulster-scots-ards>

Monday, November 24

'Weavin' the Wirds' – Traditional Basket Weaving Workshop in Dromara

Venue: Dromara Village Centre
Time: 10am-1pm (includes lunch)
Rooted in Ulster's rural traditions, this hands-on workshop explores the age-old craft of willow basket weaving, connecting language, place and heritage. Led by a skilled artisan.
Booking Required: Contact community.services@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Antrim Ulster-Scots Walking Tour

Starting Point: The Courthouse, Market Square, Antrim BT41 4AW
Time: 11am-12:30pm
Step into the story of Antrim's Ulster-Scots legacy on this immersive walking tour. Wander through ancient streets, past historic churches, old mills, and landmarks that echo the faith, industry, and resilience of the Ulster-Scots people. Along the way, hear local tales, explore traditional language, and uncover cultural insights that bring history to life. Guided by Donal Kelly & Stephen McCracken.
Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'Leid and Lairn: Hae a Bite an a Blether'

Venue: Rathcoole Library, 2 Rosslea Way, Newtownabbey BT37 9BJ
Time: 2pm-3pm

Join Dr. Dayna Jost from the Ulster-Scots Community Network for an introduction to Ulster Scots Language. Explore the origins, sounds, and cultural richness of the language in this interactive session. Through listening, reading, and speaking activities, participants will discover everyday words and grammar while building confidence in using the language - whether they have a wheen o wurd or none at all.

Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'Walkin' tha Weaver's Ain Trail'

Venue: Ballycarry Village Centre
Time: 2pm – 4pm
A guided walk of weaver poet James Orr sites in Ballycarry village centre, followed by refreshments in the local community centre and viewing of the Weaver's Trail exhibition.
For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

'The Witch of Glentow' by Tristan Crowe: Short Film Screening

Venue: Whitehead Community Centre
Time: 7.30pm
Set amid the rugged beauty of North Antrim, a storyteller recounts 'The Witch of Glentow' to children around a bonfire – until eerie events blur myth and reality. This, and several other short films with an Ulster-Scots theme, will be shown on the night.
For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Ulster-Scots Language Workshop and Discussion event with William Olphert, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency

Venue: Reivers House, Kilkeel
Time: 8pm
For further information, please contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com



'Blether and Bounce' Children's Event - An interactive dance and language programme with the Sollus Highland Dancers

This programme will provide 10 sessions across four schools in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area during Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025, giving approximately 300 children the opportunity to explore and celebrate Ulster-Scots in an active and memorable way.
For more information, please contact: Sollus Highland Dancers, The Sollus Centre, 231 Victoria Road, Bready BT82 OEB. Tel: 028 7184 1892 or email: sollusdance@hotmail.com

Story Creation Workshops Children's Event – Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin in partnership with writer and storyteller Robert Campbell

Story creation workshops with children in three Irish medium primary schools in the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area, helping young people to explore language and storytelling using Ulster-Scots words and phrases.
For more information, please contact: Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin on Tel: 028 71 264132 or email catherine@culturlann.org

Lambeg Drumming Performance and Ceilidh Dancing Sessions

Venue: Cooley Primary School
Cooley PTA will host two engaging events aimed at deepening local understanding of Ulster Scots culture and history while encouraging participation and collaboration.
Lambeg Drumming Performance: A live demonstration featuring information on the history and craftsmanship of the traditional Lambeg drum.

Ceilidh Dancing Sessions: An introduction to well-known Highland dances, with opportunities for pupils to take part and learn the steps.

Closed Event

'Lairnin the Leid' – Ulster-Scots Language and Heritage in Schools

Venue: Moneyreagh Primary School (happening throughout Leid Week)
A creative in-school programme introducing pupils to Ulster-Scots words, phrases, and local stories through music, games, and storytelling - celebrating language and local identity in a fun, age-appropriate way.
Closed Event

Patrick – Ulster's Scottish Saint

Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown
Free to visit exhibition on display in the exhibition space of The Burnavon Arts Centre (first floor) throughout the month of November 2025. No booking required.

'Ulster-Scots Mountins an Toonlans o Mourne' Exhibition

Venue: Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick (Monday-Saturday, November 24-29)
This exhibition will provide an opportunity to learn about the meanings of both mountain and townland names in Mourne, and their translations in Ulster-Scots.

'Tha Wee Schuil' – A Short Film Written and Performed by Anne McMaster

A 15-minute narrative film with an original Ulster-Scots script/voiceover drawing on archival photographs, images and memories of rural children who attended Moneydidg Primary School (between Garvagh and Kilrea).
Available online from Monday, November 24 at www.derrystarabane.com/ulsterscots

'If Headstones Could Speak – Derry City Cemetery and the Ulster-Scots': A Short Film

Narrated by Seamus Breslin, Friends of Derry City Cemetery
"If these stones could speak, they would echo

Weans in Florencecourt, Co. Fermanagh enjoyed learning about the Ulster-Scots Leid during a recent workshop held at the Old Gate Hall in the village



Young folks enjoying Leid Week with the Schomberg Society in Kilkeel



'Is it teemin? Aye!', are not uncommon words to hear across Ulster!

the praise of generations past – Ulster Scots who helped raise this city from the ground up."

Available online from Monday, November 24 at www.derrystarabane.com/ulsterscots

Ulster-Scots Guided Tours of Kilkeel for Weans

For further information, please contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com

Ulster-Scots Language Session in Newry

For further information, please contact the Schomberg Society on 07753222553 or email: schombergsociety@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 25

Whitehouse Ulster-Scots Walking Tour – Glengormley

Starting Point: The Whitehouse, 34 Whitehouse Park, Newtownabbey BT37 9SQ
Time: 11am-12:30pm
Uncover the Ulster-Scots legacy on this engaging walking tour through Whitehouse Village and Hazelbank Park. Begin at the historic Whitehouse and follow a scenic route filled with stories, landmarks, and cultural insights. Guided by Donal Kelly & Stephen McCracken
Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

Schools Workshop with Dr. Frank Ferguson, University of Ulster

Venue: Antrim Library
This workshop will focus on poets from South Antrim and invite young people to look at their wider context in writing poems about their surroundings.
Closed Event

'Brocht Ower' – An Illustrated Talk with writer Robert Campbell

Venue: Whittaker Suite, Guildhall, Londonderry
Time: 1pm (Light refreshments provided from 12.30pm)

Join poet and author Robert Campbell on a fascinating personal journey that seeks to understand the complex history and evolution of the Ulster Scots language, and answer many of the hard questions.

Free Admission but Booking Required: Call 028 71 376 579 or email ulsterscots@derrystarabane.com

Launch of 'Yarns' Poetry Book (Fifth Edition) by the Ulster Scots Agency

Venue: Ballyclare Town Hall
Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Join us for the official launch of the fifth edition of 'Yarns', a vibrant new poetry collection published by the Ulster-Scots Agency as part of Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2025.
Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'A Quair Wurd o' Things' - Ulster-Scots Panel Discussion

Venue: Larne Town Hall
Time: 7.30pm
Participants include broadcaster Laura Spence, linguist Dayna Jost, and poets and writers Charlie Gillen and Davy Moore. Music at the event will be provided by the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band.
For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Yarns, Stories and Music from Anne McMaster, Colin Urwin, Alan Millar and Kilrea Pipe Band

Venue: Kilrea Orange Hall
Time: 7:30pm

Stories and poems from Anne McMaster and Aileen McCahon; readings and songs from Colin Urwin; and local pieces read by Alan Millar. The evening will close with music from Kilrea Pipe Band.

For more information, please contact goodrelations@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Wednesday, November 26

Randalstown Ulster-Scots Walking Tour

Starting Point: Randalstown Library
Time: 11am-12:30pm
Step into the story of Randalstown's Ulster-Scots heritage on this immersive walking tour. Wander through historic streets, past Scots-associated churches, old mills, and landmarks that echo the faith, industry, and enduring legacy of the Ulster-Scots people. Along the way, enjoy tales of local characters, explore traditional language, and gain cultural insights that bring history to life. Guided by Alastair Donaghy & Stephen McCracken.
Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'Weavers an Srievers': Celebrating Ulster-Scots at Cullybackey

Venue: Arthur Cottage
Time: 12pm-1.15pm and 1.30pm-3pm
Poetry and readings from the Ulster-Scots community will be complemented by baking displays, and will include poets David Herbison (The Bard of Dunclug), James Orr (Bard of

Ballycarry) and Samuel Thomson (Bard of Carngranny).

For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Ulster-Scots Ceilidh, with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band

Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown
Time: 2pm
Enjoy a 100% authentic ceilidh with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band. With lots of well-known favourites like 'Strip The Willow', 'Dashing White Sergeant', 'The Gay Gordon's and some surprises along the way! No dance partner needed, there is something for everyone, from the very young to the not so young, seasoned dancer or absolute beginner and even those in possession of 'two left feet!' Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Booking Required: Tickets are £4 and can be booked at www.burnavon.com/whats-on

Leid Week Celebration for School Children at Belfast City Hall

Venue: Belfast City Hall
Schools from across Belfast will get an opportunity to take part in taster workshops for drumming, dancing and Drum Major skills, with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tracy Kelly, calling in to show off her skills as well. The pupils will also enjoy language workshops with the Ulster-Scots Agency's Director of Education and Language, William Olphert.
Closed Event



William Olphert, Ulster-Scots Agency Director for Education and Language, and Derek Reaney, Ulster-Scots Agency Development Officer, pictured with Deputy Mayor, Alderman Níre McMorris, and Pól Ó Frighil, Policy Officer and Languages Team, at the launch of Leid Week 2025 in Derry City and Strabane District Council



The winners and judges at last year's Ulster-Scots Writing Competition organised in partnership between The Linen Hall and the Ulster-Scots Agency. This year's award ceremony is taking place on Wednesday, November 26 (find details of how to book your ticket below)

Ulster-Scots Writing Competition Award Ceremony

Venue: The Linen Hall, Belfast
Time: 1pm-2pm
Drum roll, please, as The Linen Hall, in partnership with The Ulster-Scots Agency, announce the results of their fifth Ulster-Scots Writing Competition. They will reveal the winner and runner-up for each of the two categories in the competition: prose and poetry. The winning entries will be published in a special edition anthology. Join us for a celebration of new Ulster-Scots writing talent.
Free Admission but Booking Required: Visit www.linenhall.com/whats-on/

The Witch of Glentow: Public Screening of a Short Film with Award-Winning Director Tristan Crowe and Negative Waves

Venue: Green Room, Guildhall, Londonderry
Time: 6pm
Set amid the rugged beauty of North Antrim, a storyteller recounts 'The Witch of Glentow' to children around a bonfire - until eerie events blur myth and reality. Also screening are four Ulster-Scots shorts: Freedom in The Dairkest Oo' (Aileen McCahon), Keps (Charlie Gillen), This Moarinn Shuld Be a Plantin' (Anne McMaster), and The Wanderer (James Orr), each inspired by Ulster-Scots poetry and storytelling. The team will also be previewing their new Rhymes of Rebellion project.
Booking Required: Call 028 71 376 579 or email ulsterscots@derrystabane.com

'More than a Birler for Burns': Seamus Heaney's Ulster-Scots Poetry with Dr Frank Ferguson, University of Ulster

Venue: Ballyclare Town Hall, The Square, Ballyclare BT39 9BB
Time: 6pm-7.15pm
In this talk, Dr Frank Ferguson will explore Heaney's long affiliation with Scots and Ulster-Scots literary forms, writing and language. He will argue that rediscovering Heaney's Ulster-Scots side provides a new and exciting way of comprehending his literary achievement and highlights the significant and overlooked wider impact of the language and literary tradition upon Northern Irish writing, culture and communities.
Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

Ulster-Scots Leid Week Celebration in Maguiresbridge

Venue: Market House, Main Street, Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh, BT94 9RZ
Time: 7pm
This informal evening event will bring the community together to celebrate and explore Ulster-Scots language and culture through poetry readings, traditional Lowland pipe performances, and excerpts from a newly published Ulster-Scots book detailing the history of Market House and the local area.
No Booking Necessary.

'From Larne to Bellaghy': Ulster-Scots poems with Angeline King

Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown
Time: 7.30pm
Larne novelist Angeline King, author of 'Dusty Bluebells' and 'Snugville Street', brings a taste of her award-winning poetry to Mid Ulster. Writer in Residence of Ulster University from 2020 to 2023, Angeline has a keen interest in languages and local dialects. When commissioned to write an Ulster Scots poem for a Linen Hall Library Poetry Jukebox programme in 2025, Angeline wrote about Bellaghy's oldest known woman, Ballymacombs More Woman. This is one of several new poems inspired by the Bellaghy area.
Booking Required: Tickets are £3 and can be booked at www.burnavon.com/whats-on

A Flavour of Ulster-Scots with Paula McIntyre - Cookery Demonstration

Venue: Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, Dungannon
Time: 7.30pm
Fully Booked

Thursday 27th November

Footsteps and Verses - The Ulster-Scots Poets Trail with David Douglas of Derrie Danders

Start/End: Starts at New Gate, 2-4 Kennedy Place, Londonderry, BT48 6RF and finishes at the Guildhall
Time: 10:30am-12:30pm
Join David Douglas for two exclusive literary walking tours of the city and learn more about the life and work of some of the most iconic poets to hail from the Ulster-Scots literary tradition.
Booking Required: Please visit <https://www.newgatearts.com/events/footsteps-verses-the-ulster-scots-poets-trail-1>

Children's Workshop with Shirlie Gregg

Venue: Antrim and Newtownabbey Council Area
Closed Event

'Luk at thon': Ulster Scots on TV - The Narrow Sea and From Carrick to the Carolinas

Venue: Andrew Jackson Centre and US Rangers Museum, Carrickfergus
Time: 12pm and 1.30pm
A film following Elizabeth Jackson, mother of the Seventh US President Andrew Jackson, on her journey "From Carrick to the Carolinas".
For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

'Narnia and Hame by the Sandy Loanen', with Dr Frank Ferguson

Venue: Whittaker Suite, Guildhall, Londonderry
Time: 1pm (Light refreshments provided from 12.30pm)
In this talk, Dr Ferguson will chart the Ulster-Scots influences that helped shape C.S. Lewis's life.
Free Admission but Booking Required: Call 028 71 376 579 or email ulsterscots@derrystabane.com

Rowallance Ulster-Scots Leid Week Celebration

Venue: Sir Hans Sloane Centre, High Street, Killyleagh
Time: 1pm-3pm (includes a free lunch)
Discover the rich history and origins of the Ulster-Scots language through an interactive workshop led by The Schomburg Society, and enjoy Ulster-Scots poetry with Roy Ferguson, a local enthusiast and published poet.
Free Admission but Booking is Required: Please contact nicola.whyte@nmandd.org

Poems, Stories and Tin Whistle

Venue: Fuse Centre, Ballymoney
Time: 7pm
An evening of poems, verses, and stories from Ivor Wallace and guests, plus Dick Glasgow and the Fuse Tin Whistle/Bodhran Group
For more information, please contact goodrelations@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Special Daily Concert

Venue: Ballymena Studio Theatre
Time: 7.30pm-10pm
A special concert of music, song and storytelling at the Studio Theatre in The Braid. The band Stonewall - named after General Stonewall Jackson, whose ancestors were from County Armagh - will be taking to the stage for the event, along with piper Duane Johnston, who has a background in the Royal Irish Regiment Pipe Band and Broughshane and District Pipe Band, as well as singer/songwriter and storyteller Colin Urwin from Glenarm, whose published work includes The Madman's Window and Dalriada



Folk Tales. Booking Required: Please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Leid Week Celebration in Seskinore

Venue: Presbyterian Church Hall, Seskinore, Co. Tyrone
This Leid Week celebration will present a lively mix of Ulster Scots language, music, and culture, bringing together the local community in an enjoyable and educational evening.
For more information, please contact: samdennison@btopenworld.com

Friday, November 28

Footsteps and Verses - The Ulster-Scots Poets Trail with David Douglas of Derrie Danders

Start/End: Starts and finishes at New Gate, 2-4 Kennedy Place, Londonderry, BT48 6RF
Time: 10am-12pm
Join David Douglas for two exclusive literary walking tours of the city and learn more about the life and work of some of the most iconic poets to hail from the Ulster-Scots literary tradition.
Booking Required: Please visit <https://www.newgatearts.com/events/footsteps-verses-the-ulster-scots-poets-trail>

'Hinba: The Lost Isle of St Columba', with Alan Millar

Venue: Glenelly Suite, Derry City and Strabane District Council Office, Strabane
Time: 1pm (Light refreshments provided from 12.30pm)
Join Alan as he recounts his 2024, ACNI-assisted journey to the southern Hebridean island of Colonsay, in search of his Mesolithic ancestors, only to be astounded and delighted by how powerfully fellow Donegal man St. Columba still resonates through this region.
Free Admission but Booking Required: Call 028 71 376 579 or email ulsterscots@derrystabane.com

'The Man who fell into the Muttonburn Stream': An Ulster-Scot Poet and His Story

Venue: Larne Museum and Arts Centre
Time: 2pm-4pm
The story of local poet William James Hume, whose 1930s folk song about the small stream

outside Ballycarry has been recorded by several artists including Richard Hayward, Houli Yer Whist and the Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra over the decades.
For more information, please contact Members.Services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Tales and Tunes from Colin Urwin and Alan Millar

Venue: Ballynarrig Orange Hall, Limavady
Time: 7:30pm
Colin Urwin, a folksinger, songwriter, storyteller and author, will share tales and tunes, before local Ulster-Scots writer, Alan Millar, reads some of his work. The night will close with music from Bellarena Accordion Band and Pipes and Drums.
For more information, please contact goodrelations@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Ulster-Scots School Workshops

Venue: Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, Dungannon
The Ulster-Scots Agency Education and Language Team will deliver a workshop with a focus on language and culture in local schools.
Closed Event

'Bards and Bachles': My Journey in Ulster-Scots with Dr David Hume

Venue: Sentry Hill, 40 Ballycraig Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4SX
Time: 11am-12pm
Join renowned historian and writer Dr David Hume for an engaging talk exploring the rich language and heritage of Ulster Scots. 'Bards and Bachles': My Journey in Ulster Scots traces a cultural journey from the Borders of Scotland to the Carolinas in the United States, uncovering the stories, voices, and traditions that have shaped Ulster-Scots identity across generations and continents.
Booking Required: Email goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk to secure your space

'Ulster-Scots Leid Week Poetry, Arts and Crafts Workshop for Weans'

Venue: The Hairtlan Hub, Kilkeel
Time: 2pm
For further information, please contact the Schomburg Society on 0775322553 or email: schomburgsociety@gmail.com



The flag might be a wee bit footery but the sign isnae!

Saturday, November 29

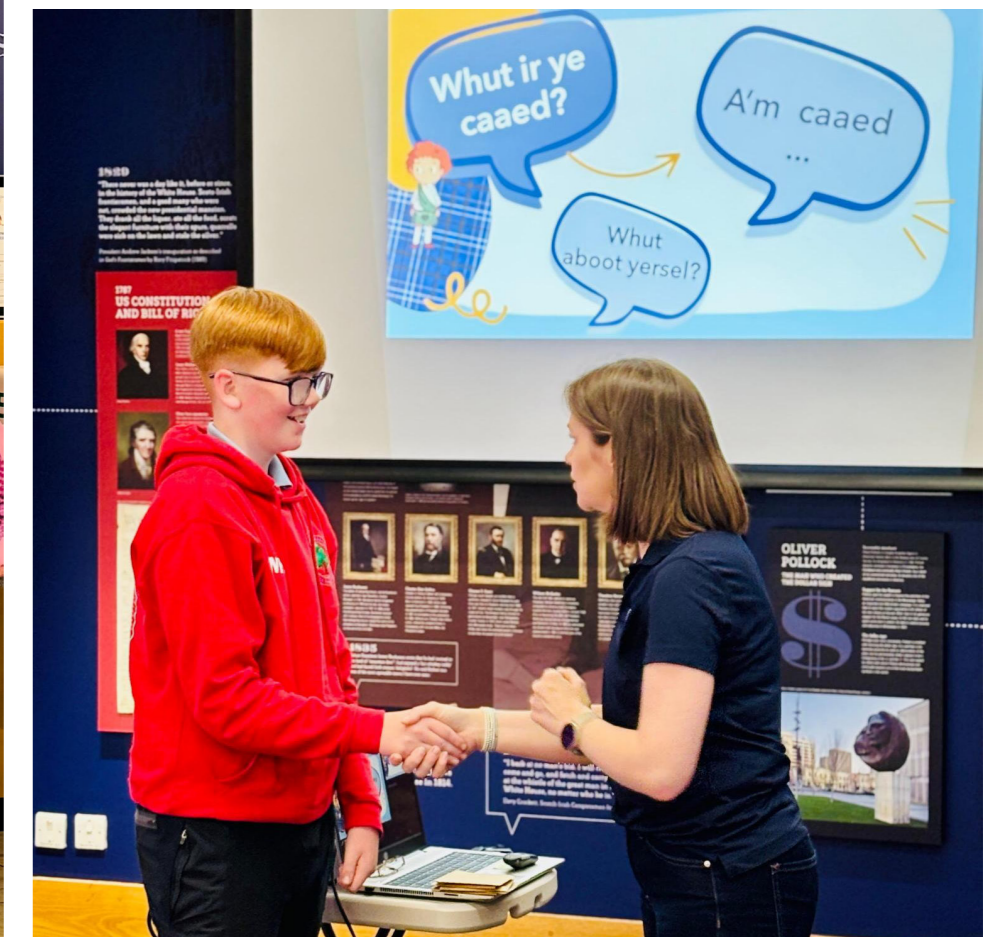
'Tuff, Slane and Sneddin'

Venue: Evan's Wood, Clabby, Co. Fermanagh, BT75 0RN
Time: 10am
Tuff, Slane and Sneddin is an Ulster Scots-themed art event exploring the natural and cultural heritage of bogland and peat cutting. The session will include a talk on the origins and wildlife of bogland, alongside Ulster-Scots readings reflecting on the traditions of turf cutting.
No Booking Required.

Belfast Tartan Day Dander 2025

Venue: Discover Ulster-Scots Centre to Belfast City Hall
Time: Gathering from 10.45am, with the Dander departing at 11.30am sharp.
After the tremendous success of the inaugural event last year, we're delighted to bring the celebration, pageantry and colour of the Belfast Tartan Day Dander back to the heart of the city once again.
Registration Required: Visit <https://forms.office.com/e/1EhP4Btjna>

Pupils from Carr's Glen Primary School enjoying the crack and learning new words



A pupil from Carr's Glen Primary School helps demonstrate the Ulster-Scots language

24 - 29 NOVEMBER 2025

#USLW2025

ULSTER-SCOTCH LEID WEEK

ULSTER-SCOTS LANGUAGE WEEK EVENT PROGRAMME

THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE PARTICIPATING IN ULSTER-SCOTCH LEID WEEK 20AN25 / ULSTER-SCOTS LANGUAGE WEEK 2025, INCLUDING:

Ards and North Down Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Lurgan & Castlereagh City Council, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Derry & Raphoe, Small Steps, Schomburg Society, The Linen Hall Belfast 1788, Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, Ulster University, Discover Ulster-Scots, Ulster-Scots Agency



(Left) Executive Vice President of America250 Jen Condon, Communities Minister Gordon Lyons, Commissioner of America 250 Joe Crowley, and Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier



Commissioner Joe Crowley in discussion with Heidi McAlpin, Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund Executive

America250 Commission visits the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre

As major plans to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence in 2026 continue to be developed, we were delighted to welcome Joe Crowley, Commissioner of America250, and Jen Condon, Executive Vice President of America250, to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast earlier this month.

Part of a landmark two-day visit to Northern Ireland organised by the Communities Minister, Gordon Lyons MLA, the pair were

given a guided tour of the centre by Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier, before viewing special memorabilia relating to some of the significant figures who went to America from these shores.

The roots of several founding figures in the US can be traced back to Ulster, including: Charles Thomson, from Maghera was the first Secretary of the Continental Congress; his name graces the first copy of the Declaration. He also designed the Great Seal of the United States.

John Dunlap, a printer from Strabane produced the first printed version of the Declaration of Independence.

James McHenry, born in Ballymena, signed the US Constitution. Hercules Mulligan, born in Coleraine was a tailor, spy, and hero who twice saved George Washington's life and has been immortalised in the hit musical Hamilton.

Speaking about the visit to Northern Ireland, which also included events at Hillsborough Castle, Parliament Buildings, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the Ulster American Folk Park, Minister Lyons said: "It is a privilege to welcome Commissioner Joe Crowley and Executive Vice President Jen Condon to Northern Ireland in recognition of the unique contribution our people have made to the foundation of the United States of America.

"The stories of our nations have been woven together over the last 250 years. More than 250,000 people left these shores during the 18th century to help shape modern America. "We must seize this special opportunity to showcase our contribution and celebrate our continued strong relationship."

The visit also saw the signing of an historic Memorandum of Understanding, which sets out the terms for co-operation in support of the anniversary commemorations. This includes a USA-NI250 funding programme, managed by the Ulster-Scots Agency, for organisations to commemorate Northern Ireland's contribution to American history.



The event was attended by influential figures from across the wider Ulster-Scots community



Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier provided a guided tour of the centre, including the Montgomery Gallery which tells the story of emigration from Ulster to America



The visit including viewing a selection of special memorabilia

Belfast Tartan Day Dander Returns for 2025!

After the tremendous success of the inaugural event last year, the Ulster-Scots Agency are delighted to be bringing the celebration, pageantry and colour of the Belfast Tartan Day Dander back to the heart of the city on Saturday, November 29!

The event will once again begin at the

Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, with the centre open from 10.45am. The dander will depart at 11.30am sharp and make its way to Belfast City Hall, filling the air with spectacular Ulster-Scots music, dance and fanfare all along the way.

At City Hall, participants will enjoy the popular "Tartan Tay" part of the day, where there will be some short speeches and refreshments.

The event will end at approximately 1.30pm, leaving plenty of time for participants to go Christmas shopping in the city, not forgetting the Christmas Market at City Hall.

Individuals/families/groups of friends are invited to register to walk in the dander - just remember to wear some tartan! Pipers, tenor drummers, snare drummers and drum majors are welcome to register to take part in the Massed Pipe Band.

We hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be another very memorable occasion, as we bring the sights and sounds of our proud Ulster-Scots culture, history and heritage to the streets of the capital once more!

*To participate in the event, register today at <https://forms.office.com/e/1EhP4Btjna> or scan the QR code on the poster. If your registration is successful, you will receive an email, detailing parking options, the tunes for the Massed Pipe Band etc. Please note - regarding music on the day, we are not seeking any more bands to take part. There is a limited number of spaces available for individual musicians and drum majors to apply to join the Massed Pipe Band through the link.



Making memories that will last for years to come



Wee but mighty - these weans conquered the dander!



Campbell College Pipes and Drums will be taking part in their second Belfast Tartan Day Dander



The Massed Pipe Band making their way past City Hall



Even Santa made an appearance at the Dander!



Highland Dancers brought colour and flare to the special occasion



BELFAST TARTAN DAY DANDER 2025 SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER REGISTRATION OPEN

Join us for what promises to be another very memorable occasion, as we bring the sights and sounds of our proud Ulster-Scots culture, history and heritage to the streets of the capital once more!



SCAN HERE



CATHEDRAL QUARTER TO CITY HALL



The Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival 2025

West Tyrone will be awash with Ulster-Scots revelry during Leid Week 2025, as the Bessy Bell and Mary Gray Festival brings top class Ulster-Scots language, music, cookery, crafts and storytelling to the masses.

As you can see from the event listing, there is literally something for everyone, from the very young to the elegant elders, but with events ticketed, you need to get in touch ASAP or risk missing out!

Ulster-Scots Ceilidh & Dinner with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band in Mullinagoagh Orange Hall

Saturday, November 22
Time: 8pm
Where: Mullinagoagh Orange Hall, Dromore, Co Tyrone
Booking Required: Contact Gregory on 07511 534 724 or Rebecca on 07783 713 762

A Night with Blair Memorial Flute Band during their 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8pm
Where: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart
Come along for a terrific night of entertainment from one of the finest marching bands in Ulster, Blair Memorial Flute Band, as they celebrate 50 years of music, pride and tradition.

Ulster-Scots Afternoon of Cookery, Music and Yarns

Wednesday, November 26
Time: 2pm
Where: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart
Kate Allison of KVC Creativity will facilitate the Cookery Demonstration; Bill Robb will be along to recite some Ulster-Scots Poetry and Yarns; and the Strule River String Band will come along and entertain everyone with some Ulster-Scots music.



Stonewall will be playing at the concert on November 28

Booking Required: Contact Elaine on 07904 019 483

Schools Choral Speaking Competition

Thursday, November 27
Ardstraw Jubilee Primary School and Gortin Primary School will take part in this choral speaking competition. Pupils from both schools have taken part in four weeks of choral speaking workshops, which have been facilitated by the Ulster-Scots Agency.
Closed Event

Ulster-Scots Ceilidh with Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band in Mountfield Orange Hall

Thursday, November 27
Time: 8pm
Where: Mountfield Orange Hall
Booking Required: Contact Donna on 07880 607 395

Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival Concert Night

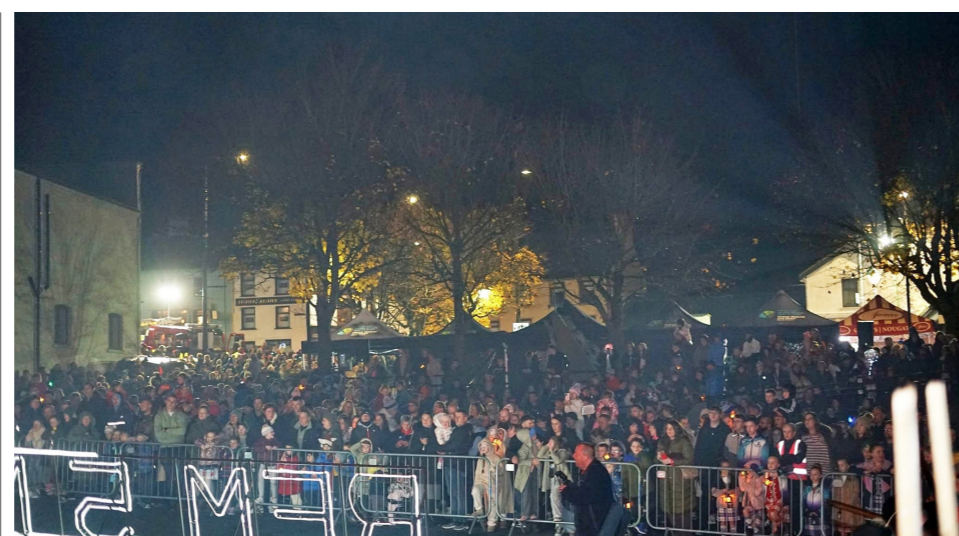
Friday, November 28
Time: 8pm
Where: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart
Compere-William Sayers will introduce a talented selection of performers, including Ulster-Scots traditional folk band, Stonewall; Kilclean Pipe Band; Blue Thistle Highland Dancers; and Kyle Duddy, Stuart Wilson and Somme Hall Students
Booking Required: Contact Elaine on 07904 019 483

Ulster-Scots Youth Crafts, Music & Rhymes

Saturday, November 29
Time: 10am-12noon
Where: Somme Memorial Hall, Newtownstewart
Come along and enjoy some Ulster-Scots themed Youth Crafts, Music and Rhymes with Carol and David. Suitable for ages 7 – 12.
Booking Required: Contact Elaine on 07904 019 483

St Andrews Day Gospel Concert & Finale!

Sunday, November 30
Time: 3pm
Where: Newtownstewart Presbyterian Church, 41 Moyle Road, Newtownstewart, BT78 4AP
Entertainment from Killen Orange District Male Voice Choir, vocalists Callum and Lexie Rose, and Piper Kyle Duddy accompanied by David Doonan
Everyone welcome!



The Guy Fawkes Festival attracts huge numbers of visitors from across Northern Ireland

Huge crowds for Kilkeel's annual Guy Fawkes celebrations

The Schomberg Society's annual Guy Fawkes Festival has been hailed as a tremendous success once again, after a fantastic series of events in Kilkeel culminated with the traditional 'Bonfire Night' celebration.

During the Festival, events organised by the Society included a talk and presentation on the Gunpowder Plot by local historian, Quincey Dougan, and a 'Bonfire Breakfast' hosted by the Society's Hairtlan Men's Shed.

The Society also loaned the Ulster-Scots Agency's 'Charter Towns' exhibition, which was on display in Newcastle Library, helping to give folk a better understanding of the story and the impact of the Plantation of Ulster.

Other elements of the festival included two Ulster-Scots Arts and Crafts sessions for weans, forbye a two-day Ulster-Scots themed Guy Fawkes Camp, creating an opportunity for children to learn more about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot.



Special Guest, Junior Minister Joanne Bunting MLA, lit the beacon at the end of the children's lantern parade



Highland Dancers are always popular at the festival

The highlight of the Festival was the much-anticipated children's lantern parade, which made its way through Kilkeel Town Centre. They were led by King James VI of Scotland and I of England on horseback, the Schomberg Fife and Drum Band, and 17th Century living history re-enactors carrying fire torches. The crowds also enjoyed seeing the recently formed Schomberg Academy Pipe Band on parade, both of whom were in fantastic form.

Hundreds of children and their families took part in the lantern parade, which finished off with crowds gathering for the lighting of a beacon by the special guest, Junior Minister Joanne Bunting MLA, and the burning of a specially hand-crafted willow Guy Fawkes effigy. The finale also featured live musket firing, a fireworks display, children's entertainment, and an Ulster-Scots music and dance showcase in the Lower Square, Kilkeel.

King James I was a pivotal figure in the story of the Ulster-Scots, overseeing the Plantation of Ulster, and the Schomberg Society's Guy Fawkes celebrations aim to create a better awareness of this monumental event in our history.

The tradition of Ulster-Scots celebrating Guy Fawkes Night in Kilkeel stretches back well over 100 years, when there were performances by marching bands, fifes and lambe drums, and bonfires. The Schomberg Society is very pleased to have successfully revived this tradition, which now welcomes visitors from right across Northern Ireland.

The Society expressed their sincere thanks to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for supporting the Festival.

New Ulster-Scots Heritage Tours Now Available at Fermanagh's Crom Estate

New tours focusing on the early Ulster-Scots plantation of Crom estate by the Crichton family, Earls of Erne, and the Williamite-Jacobite wars in Fermanagh, have recently been launched in the Lakeland county.

The tours are organised and managed by local historian, Simon Wiggins, who provided an example of what visitors could expect. He said: "In September, with the support of Ulster-Scots funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, I organised the first Ulster-Scots heritage tour to Crom Castle, which is situated on the tranquil shores of Upper Lough Erne in County Fermanagh.

"Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by Lord and Lady Erne, who graciously led us on a guided tour of their magnificent family home. Throughout the visit, Lord Erne shared fascinating stories about the castle's history and the long heritage of the Erne family, whose Ulster-Scots roots trace back to Crichton Castle near Edinburgh. Each room revealed a new chapter in the family's story, with portraits, heirlooms, and architectural details illustrating centuries of local and national history."

Following the tour, the group were treated to a delightful afternoon tea in the castle's conservatory, where they enjoyed homemade scones, sandwiches, and tea overlooking the scenic estate gardens and castle's tennis



Tour guide Simon Wiggins leading a group around the parklands at Crom

court. The hospitality of Lord and Lady Erne made the experience both personal and unforgettable with many visiting Crom Castle for the first time.

In the afternoon, the group embarked on a Williamite walking tour of the estate, exploring the Old Castle ruins, dating back to 1611. Simon recounted how the strategic stronghold played a significant role during the Williamite-Jacobite war in Fermanagh, notably surviving two Jacobite sieges in 1689. The defenders of Crom, loyal to William of Orange, successfully resisted attacks from the Jacobite forces of James II, who were defeated by an Enniskillen Williamite army at the Battle of Newtownbutler 1689, marking an important



The old castle ruins at Crom date back to 1611

moment in local and Ulster history. "The day concluded with a leisurely stroll through the surrounding parklands, where the blend of natural beauty and historical significance left a lasting impression on all in attendance. Overall, the visit to Crom Castle provided a rich insight into Ulster's heritage,

blending noble history, architectural grandeur, and warm hospitality in one of Fermanagh's most captivating settings."

If your group would like to undertake a similar tour or to discuss tailored options you can contact Simon at sjwiggins90@gmail.com



Crom Castle is situated on the picturesque banks of Lough Erne

Fusefm Mourn Radio to light-up the Airwaves this Christmas!

There will be plenty of crack in Studio One in Reivers House, Kilkeel in the coming weeks, as they welcome back the ever-popular Christmas broadcast of Fusefm Mourn Radio.

Returning to the airwaves from Monday, December 8, and broadcasting for two weeks until Sunday, 21st, from 8am – 11pm daily, more than 80 volunteers will be involved with the broadcast, hosting a range of Ulster-Scots shows, including poetry, gospel, country music and Scotch-Irish, to name just a few.

One of the highlights will be the annual Ulster-Scots Christmas Carol Service, which will take place on Sunday, December 21 from 8.30pm. Live on air from Reivers House.

A spokesperson from Fusefm Mourn commented: "Fusefm Mourn is a fantastic outreach initiative from The Schomberg Society, providing us with a very successful platform to promote the best of Ulster-Scots music, culture, traditions, and of course, the language that we all use every day.



Fusefm Mourn Radio Presenter, Gareth Crozier, in Studio One at Reivers House in Kilkeel

We are very thankful to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued support with these broadcasts."

Folk can tune in this Christmas locally in Mourn on 106.2fm, online at fusefmmourn.co.uk, via the Fuse FM App, or via Alexa

The Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival

Sun 30th November 2025 @ 3pm-

The Accordion Squeezers will be playing from 2.45pm
in Newtownstewart Presbyterian Church,
41 Moyle Road, Newtownstewart, BT78 4AP

St Andrews Day Gospel Concert & Finale!

Guest speaker Rev Robert McFaul
Entertainment from:
The Accordion Squeezers
Killen Orange District Male Voice Choir
Vocalists Callum and Lexie Rose and Piper Kyle Duddy
accompanied by David Doonan

Everyone welcome!

FREE EXHIBITION NOW OPEN

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Paula's Hamely Winter Warmers

As the winter nights draw in, many of us will dream of settling down to a warm, delicious homemade meal, and here to help us do just that, with the return of her fantastic 'Hamely Winter Warmers' recipes, is renowned Ulster-Scots culinary expert, Paula McIntyre. We hope you enjoy these amazing dishes!

Slow cooked pork shoulder with sage, walnuts and buttermilk mash

- 1.5kg rolled and netted pork shoulder
- 2 onions, peeled and quartered
- 2 sticks celery chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 75g walnuts, chopped
- 4 tablespoons Brighter Gold rapeseed oil
- 150ml dry cider or local apple juice
- 500ml chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons sage leaves

Set oven to 160C.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a casserole and when smoking add the pork. Season with salt and seal all over. Add the onions and celery and cook until golden. Add the garlic and walnuts and cook for a minute. Place the pork on top of the vegetables and add the wine. Bring to a simmer and add the stock. Place a lid on top and place in oven. Cook for about 3 hours or until fork tender. Blend the cooking liquor and check seasoning. Fry the sage in the remaining oil until crisp. Allow pork to rest for 15 minutes then slice, spoon over the sauce and scatter over the sage.

Buttermilk Mash

- 1.5kg potatoes, peeled
- 150ml buttermilk
- Salt to taste

Boil the potatoes until soft, drain well and return to pan. Cover and cook on a low heat to dry out the potatoes for a couple of minutes. Add the buttermilk and mash well. Season to taste.

Beef and potato soup with crispy potato bread croutons

- 750g bone in shin of beef
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil



Paula is known all over the world for her fantastic cooking, bringing Ulster-Scots culinary delights to a global audience. Keep up with her via her website, paulamcintyre.com



Pork Shoulder

- 2 medium carrots, diced
- 2 onions, chopped
- 6 stalks soup celery, chopped
- 1.5 litres water with 2 beef stock cubes added
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar
- 2 potatoes, peeled and diced

Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a frying pan until smoking hot. Season shin with salt and seal on both sides. Transfer to a large saucepan. Add remaining oil to frying pan and add the carrots and onions. Cook until golden and add to the saucepan with the soup celery. Cover with the stock and add the Worcestershire sauce and balsamic and simmer with a lid on for about 2 hours (I also do this in the oven in a casserole - 180oc) or until beef is fork tender. Remove beef from pan and add the potatoes. Cook until tender - about 25 minutes. Shred the beef and set aside. Blend the soup to a smooth puree and add the shredded beef.

Crispy potato bread croutons

- 2 pieces potato bread cut into 1/2 cm dice
- Oil for frying

Cover the bottom of a frying pan with oil and heat over medium heat. Add the potato bread and cook until golden and crisp. Drain on kitchen paper. Scatter while hot over bowls of the soup and garnish with chopped chives.

Baked apple and pear sponge pudding with spiced caramel custard

Baked apple and pear sponge pudding

- 3 medium cooking or eating apples
- 3 pears
- Juice 1 lemon
- 150g castor sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Cut the lemon in half and squeeze into 2 bowls. Peel, core and chop the apple and toss in the lemon in one bowl. Peel and quarter the pears, remove core and chop and toss into the other



Custard and sponge, an Ulster staple

bowl of lemon.

Place the apples in a pan with 75g of the sugar and the cinnamon and cook until just soft.

Heat the sugar in a frying pan and when hot add the pears and cook for a couple of minutes. Mix into the apples and then place in a buttered baking dish.

Sponge topping

- 175g soft butter
- 75g dark brown sugar
- 100g castor sugar
- 3 eggs
- 175g self raising flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Set oven to 170C.

Beat the butter and sugars until pale and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time and then whisk in the flour and vanilla.

Spread onto the apple and pear mix and bake for about 40 minutes or until an inserted

skewer comes out clean.

Spiced Caramel Custard

- 3 egg yolks
- 100g sugar
- 15g cornflour
- 250ml whole milk
- 100ml cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice

Place milk and cream in a saucepan and scald.

Heat another pan until hot and add 50g of the sugar. Cook to a rich amber liquid and then carefully add the hot milk mixture - it will bubble up! Add the spices and vanilla and simmer until the caramel has dissolved. Whisk the egg yolks with the remaining sugar and cornflour and pour over the hot spiced caramel milk. Whisk and then return to the pan and whisk over a medium heat until thick. Serve immediately over the warm sponge with cream or ice-cream (or both).

Ulster-Scots Flagship Awards presented to Killylea and Lisbellaw Primary Schools

There was much to celebrate in counties Armagh and Fermanagh recently, as two local primary schools received their coveted Ulster-Scots Agency Flagship Awards.

Killylea Primary School have undertaken great work with the Ulster-Scots Agency over several years, providing pupils with the opportunity to engage with their Ulster-Scots history and culture, particularly in the disciplines of music and dance.

Pupils at Lisbellaw Primary school have done a brilliant job promoting Ulster-Scots in their village and beyond, having successfully completed over 30 weeks of tuition in Highland Dance with Kenzey Downey and Piping with Gordon McKeown.

Lisbellaw have also participated in the

annual Hawick Reivers Festival in Scotland for the past three years, winning the prestigious Andy Norman Trophy on every occasion!

Speaking after the presentations, William Olphert, the Agency's Director of Education and Language, said: "We are delighted to celebrate with both Killylea and Lisbellaw Primary Schools as they receive our Flagship Award.

"This award requires pupils to undertake a range of activities that encourage and promote Ulster-Scots culture and heritage, building up their knowledge, increasing their confidence and giving them new skills.

"A massive 'Well done!' to all the pupils and to the schools who provided tremendous support. We trust they will enjoy this special recognition and take great pride in their success."



Killylea Primary School Principal, Pam Lowry, and pupils receiving their Flagship Award



Lisbellaw Primary School Principal, Jason Kilfedder, and Vice-Principal, Sarah Auterson, along with pupils and pipe tutor Gordon McKeown, receiving their Flagship Award



Children enjoying Scottish Country Dancing with their friends

Stepping into joy

Celebrating Scottish Country Dancing in Schools with Ruth Clarke

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) offers a wonderful initiative - the Primary School Accreditation Programme - designed to help schools learn, celebrate, and take pride in Scottish Country Dancing. Through a structured framework, pupils can achieve Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, receiving certificates and pin badges as recognition of their progress.

Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of teaching Scottish Country Dancing (SCD) in schools across Northern Ireland - including Fermanagh, the far reaches of Tyrone, Armagh, and even into Cavan - thanks to funding from various groups supported by the Ulster-Scots Agency. Each week, I've engaged with over 500 children in dozens of schools, introducing them to lively ceilidh dances like 'Virginia Reel', 'The Gay Gordons', and 'The Dashing White Sergeant', as well as structured SCD favourites such as 'Simon's Dance', 'The Cavehill Jig', and 'And For The Young Ones'.

One particular favourite among the children

is 'The Marmalade Sandwich'. They absolutely love the imaginative aspect of "making" their sandwich - though, of course, the best part is always the "eating" of it.

It's always a joy to watch the transformation in the classroom. Sometimes, boys walk in with 'faces like thunder', clearly sceptical - but by the end of that first session, I look around and every single child is smiling and laughing, caught up in the fun of dancing with their friends.

For me, the highlight of each teaching block is the final class - not because it's the end, but because it's a celebration. I let the pupils choose their favourite dances, we do one walkthrough, and then I step back and watch them go. It's deeply rewarding to see just how much they've learned and how confidently they perform.

I only recently learned about the RSCDS accreditation programme, and I'm so proud to now see pupils proudly wearing their Bronze lapel pins and receiving certificates on behalf of their schools. It's a fantastic way to recognise their hard work and to encourage the continuation of this joyful, cultural tradition.

Wean's World Competition Winner

Congratulations to the winner of the Wean's World competition in the last edition of The Ulster-Scot, Leah, who produced a brilliant, colourful picture of our farmyard scene!

As a result, she walked away with a fantastic Ulster-Scots goodie bag full of exciting bits and pieces: an art set, to help her create even more wonderful art; and one of the top fashion items in Ulster - a marvellous GRASSMEN hoodie!

Other highly commended pictures included those submitted by Lucy and Harry, who also received Ulster-Scots goodies and a wee art set.

Congratulations Leah, Lucy and Harry, and many thanks to our good friends at the GRASSMEN for providing the hoodie as a top prize.

Don't forget to get your entry in for our new competition. Details on the back page!



Our winner, Leah



Lucy with her runner up prize



Runner up Harry

TAAKIN BRAID

Building Confidence in Ulster-Scots: A Language Revival in Action

Over recent editions of this column, we've explored why Ulster-Scots deserves recognition as a vital part of these islands' linguistic heritage. From its roots in Scots migration to Ulster, the language has evolved into a distinctive form spoken across the province. Whether we realise it or not, Ulster-Scots influences everyday speech for everyone in Ulster. In areas such as North Antrim, the Ards Peninsula, and the Laggan in Donegal, you'll often hear people switching seamlessly between English and a richer, more traditional Ulster-Scots—a practice known as *code-switching*, which is key to understanding the language's modern use.

countless requests from people eager to go beyond a handful of words and truly engage with the language. Our response? The "Dinnae Hou' Yer Wheest" pilot programme.

New Ulster-Scots Language Class Launched
In October and November, we launched a six-week Ulster-Scots language course at Ballymena Library. More than 20 participants - representing diverse ages, backgrounds, and interests - came together for this inaugural class. The question was: how do you teach Ulster-Scots? Like French lessons at school, with dialogues and drills? We suspected that this approach wouldn't work. Instead, we prioritised enjoyment—and it paid off. The sessions were filled with laughter and much



More than 20 participants came together at the pilot 'Dinnae Hou' Yer Wheest' six-week language course in Ballymena

learning, and the net result has been a cohort of people who are more confident in the language.

Each lesson featured several key components:
Taak it Baak - A myth-busting segment aimed at reclaiming Ulster-Scots and deepening understanding of how languages function.
Taak - Practical speaking exercises, such as "A'm frae Ballymoney but I live in Antrim" (I'm from Ballymoney but I live in Antrim).
Hamewurk - Homework tasks that encouraged learners to not only practise the words but also included other tasks i.e. mapping where they use Ulster-Scots in daily life, helping create safe spaces for authentic speech.
Wheest tae A Tell Ye - Guest appearances by writers, poets, and academics who have championed Ulster-Scots, linking creative expression with everyday use.

What did participants think? Their feedback speaks volumes:

Learning & Knowledge: "Learning new things," "History behind the language," "Better understanding of Ulster-Scots."
Interactivity & Engagement: "Interactivity of the class," "Group support," "Friendly,

welcoming environment."
Community & Networking: "Meeting like-minded folk," "Access to speakers," "Grassroots movement."
Facilitators & Resources: "Knowledgeable trainers," "Good communicators," "Lots of resources."

A WhatsApp group, set up from day one, proved invaluable for ongoing engagement. It's now buzzing daily with learners practising Ulster-Scots writing - a promising sign for a community historically lacking literacy but growing in confidence.

Friendships blossomed too, with genuine sadness when the course ended. Some participants even penned laments - a creative testament to their enthusiasm!

So what's next? The success of this pilot means *Dinnae Hou' Yer Wheest (DHYW)* will roll out across Ulster, with plans for OCN accreditation. *DHYW2* is already in development, focusing on "rewilding" the digital space and introducing drama and creative sketches to strengthen practical language use.

One thing is certain: we're not about to "hou' oor wheest." The appetite for Ulster-Scots is strong, and with continued effort, we'll see a vibrant, confident speech community flourish.



William Olphert, Director for Education and Language at the Ulster-Scots Agency, and author of our regular 'Taakin Braid' column

DINNAE HOUL YER WHEEST!
Ulster-Scots Language Course

Find out more about our Language Course

Scan the QR code, email or WhatsApp us to sign up to find out more about learning Ulster-Scots.

language@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

07442 230316

Scan Me

Discover Ulster-Scots

OCN Ulster-Scots Courses – Now Available

The Ulster-Scots Community Network have announced the return of their popular range of courses. Offered free of charge to community organisations, and accredited by the Open College Network NI, the courses cover a wide range of topics, including history, language, faith and emigration, and much more besides. There is certainly much to be learned and enjoyed.

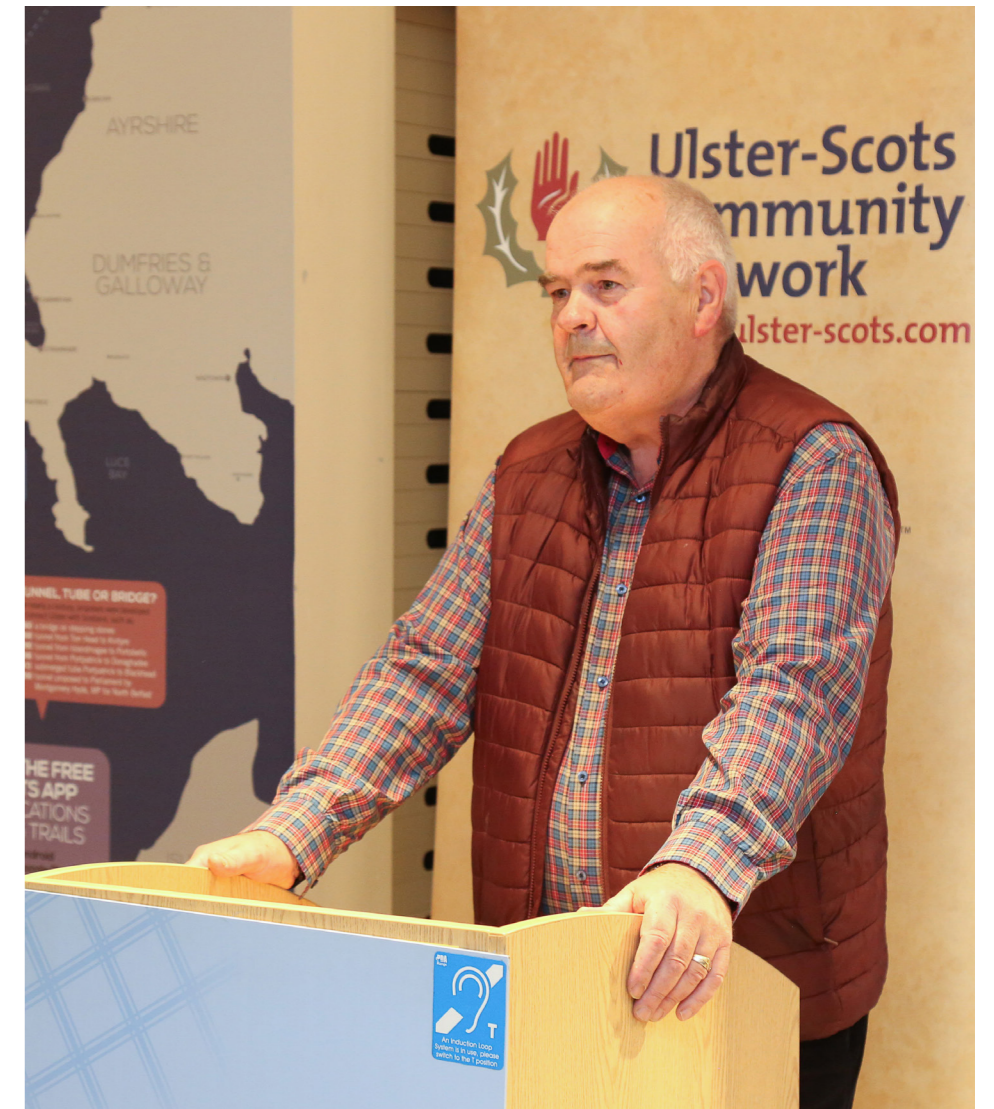
The details for Levels 1 and 2 are listed below (please note: only participants who have completed the Level 1 course can register to progress to the more advanced Level 2 version):

- Level 1: Introduction to Ulster-Scots:**
Duration: Four, two-hour sessions covering -
- ◆ Definitions and indicators of an Ulster-Scots Identity
 - ◆ Overview of the Plantation of Ulster;
 - ◆ Taakin with Ulster-Scots (language) and
 - ◆ Ulster-Scots and family history

- Level 2: Impact of Ulster-Scots on Ulster**
Duration: Eight, two-hour sessions covering:
- ◆ Early 17th century Ulster and evolving Ulster-Scots Identity
 - ◆ Impacts of Plantation on Rural and Urban Ulster
 - ◆ Rural Revolution in 18th century Ulster and impact on Ulster-Scots
 - ◆ A Leap of Faith; Ulster-Scots perspectives in 19th and 20th Century
 - ◆ Home and Away: The Ulster-Scots Diaspora and Resurgence of the culture

If any of the options listed above capture your interest and you would like to express an interest in either attending a course at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, or facilitating a course in your area, please email charlesn@ulster-scots.com for further information.

Additional courses can also be delivered to specific groups at their own preferred locations, or in some circumstances, via Zoom. If interested, please also send any requests to the same email address.



Discover Ulster-Scots

GET A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY

VISIT THE DISCOVER ULSTER-SCOTS CENTRE
VICTORIA STREET, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

FREE ADMISSION
MON-FRI, 10AM-4PM

EXHIBITION • LITERATURE • GIFTS

OCN NI
ULSTER-SCOTS COURSES

COURSES COVERED:

- LEVEL 1: Introduction to Ulster-Scots
- LEVEL 2: Impact of Ulster-Scots on Ulster

What will you discover?

DELIVERED BY THE ULSTER-SCOTS COMMUNITY NETWORK

ENDORSED BY THE OPEN COLLEGE NETWORK NI

To Express Interest Contact: CHARLESN@ULSTER-SCOTS.COM

Wean's Wurld

Have a festive season full of faith, fun... and a new twist on the nativity!

As Christmas time approaches, Ulster-Scots across the country are preparing to gather with their families and friends to attend church services to celebrate Jesus' birth; take part in or watch nativity plays; organise presents; put up their Christmas trees; write their letters to Santa (and then wait to see if he comes!); enjoy lots of delicious food and drink; and have plenty of fun and crack!

It's a time of terrific celebration and anticipation, and it has long been a very important date on the calendar for our community stretching back over hundreds of years, bringing people together in faith, hope and love.



Enter our competition for the chance to win a LEGO voucher. Photos used with permission. ©2025 The LEGO Group

the Ulster-Scot COMPETITION



Competition Time

With this in mind, the competition in this edition of 'Wean's Wurld' centres on Christmas. Below, you'll find a chapter from the Bible – Luke 2 – which has been translated into Ulster-Scots. We want you to locate the words in the text which mean the same as the English words below the crossword, fill them in, colour the nativity scene around the crossword, and send your completed, colourful sheet back to us. It's that easy.

The winner will receive a wonderful £25 voucher for one of the most amazing toys the world has ever seen – Lego!

You can either take a photo of your completed sheet and email it to competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk, or post it to us at: Education and Language Team, Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG, Northern Ireland.

The closing date for entries is Friday 12th December 2025, so get your entry in soon! Good luck!

LUKE 2 v 1-20 Tha Birth o Jesus

¹ Roon about this time tha Emperor, Caesar Augustus, gien orders that a heid-coont was tae be taen o aa tha fowk in ivery pairt o his empire. ² This was tha furst coont daen whan Quirinius was tha Governor o Syria. ³ An iverybody was haein tae gae bak tae whar they wur boarn tae pit thair names doon for it. ⁴ Noo acause Joseph's femlie went bak tae King Davit, he haed come frae Nazareth in Galilee tae Bethlehem in Judea, whar Davit was frae. ⁵ Mary, his wife tae be, trevelt wi him, tha mair o bein near hir time.

⁶ But whan they wur thair, hir time come tae hae tha wean. ⁷ An she haed hir furst babbie, a

sinn. She rowlt him up in bits o claiht an put him in a manger wi tha fother, acause thair was nae ruim for thaim in tha ludgin hoose.

Tha Shepherds an tha Angels

⁸ That nicht a wheen o herdmen was oot in tha fiels mindin thair sheep. ⁹ Aa o a suddent, an angel o tha Loard come amang thaim, an tha hale kintrie was lichtit up bi tha glorie o tha Loard, an they wur wile feart. ¹⁰ But tha angel sayed, "Dinnae be feart, for A'm bringin yis tha best news ver; an it's for tha hale war!" ¹¹ Tha Saviour, ay, tha Christ, tha Loard, haes this nicht bin boarn in Bethlehem, tha toon o Davit. ¹² An this is hoo ye'll ken him. Ye'll fin a babbie, rowlt in bits o claiht, lyein amang tha fother in a manger." ¹³ An aa o a suddent thair was a hale thrang o angels, tha airmies o haiven, praisin God an sayin, ¹⁴ "Glorie tae God in tha maist heich haiven, an a peace on irth tae aa fowk that plaisses him."

¹⁵ Whaniver tha angels went bak tae haiven, tha herdmen sayed yin tae anither, "Come on, we'll gang tae Bethlehem an see this wunnerfu thing that haes happent, that tha Loard haes toul iz about."

¹⁶ They hurriet aff an they fun Mary an Joseph. An thair was tha babbie lyein in tha manger! ¹⁷ Whaniver they saen him, tha shepherds toul whut tha angel haed sayed about this wean, an aa that haed happent. ¹⁸ An they wur aa thunnerstruck bi whut they heard frae tha shepherds. ¹⁹ Mary didnae say much, but she kep turnin these things ower an ower in hir hairt. ²⁰ Tha shepherds went bak tae hirdin thair sheep in tha fiels, praisin an giein glorie tae God for whut they haed saen an heard. It haed bin jist tha wye tha angel haed toul thaim.

Adapted from the Fower Gospels in Ulster-Scots <https://bible.com/bible/885/luk.2.1-52.USNT>

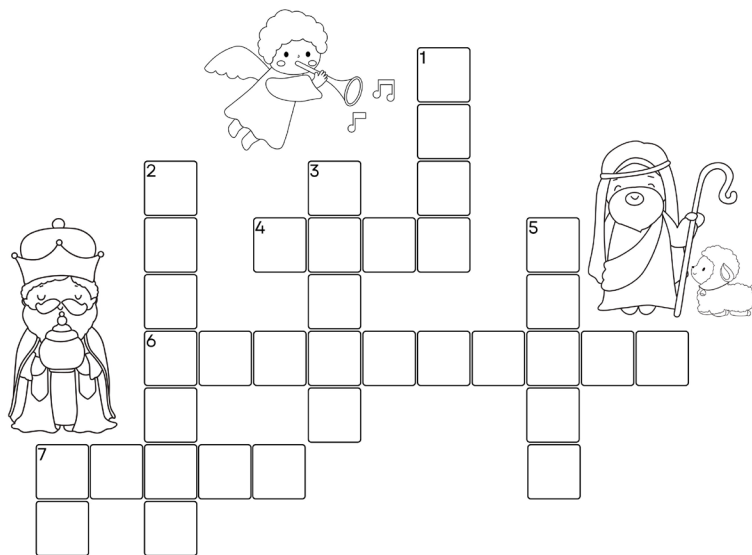


ULSTER-SCOTS EDUCATION

aye lairnin • always learning

NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

Read the Bible passage from Luke 2, based on the Ulster-Scots translation of the Four Gospels, which tells us about the Birth of Jesus. Once you have read it, match the Ulster-Scots words to their English meaning and complete the crossword.



Across

4. down
6. everybody
7. fields

Down

1. child
2. pleases
3. born
5. afraid
7. family